

**The Highland Council**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Sutherland County Committee** held in the Chamber, Council Offices, Drumbuie, Golspie on Tuesday 27 August 2024 at 10.30am.

**Present:**

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr R Gale               | Mr H Morrison (remote) |
| Ms M Hutchison (remote) | Ms L Niven (remote)    |
| Mr J McGillivray        |                        |

**In attendance:**

Ms F Richardson, Community Development Manager  
Mr P Tomalin, Community Development Manager  
Ms J Sutherland, Roads Operations Manager  
Mr S Manning, Principal Traffic Officer  
Ms A Macrae, Senior Committee Officer

**Also in attendance:**

Chief Inspector C Smith, Police Scotland

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

**Mr R Gale in the Chair**

**Business**

**1. Apologies for Absence  
Leisgeulan**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr M Baird.

**2. Declarations of Interest  
Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Recess Powers  
Cumhachdan Fosaidh**

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 27 June 2024 did not require to be exercised in relation to the business of the Sutherland County Committee.

**4. Police – Area Performance Summary  
Poileas – Geàrr-chunntas air Coileanadh Sgìreil**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/12/24 by the North Area Commander.

In discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- the reduction in the number of fatalities from road traffic collisions was encouraging given the increase in traffic volumes and highlighting this was due

to the proactive work of the roads police officers and preventative work undertaken by the Council;

- confirmation was sought and provided that speeding detections were carried out both by road patrols and camera safety vans and that Members feedback on any areas of concern would be welcomed;
- the reasons for the increase in unlawful use of vehicles and what environmental offences encompassed. The Chief Inspector advised he would report back to Members with further information on these matters;
- an update was sought and provided that the police officer post in Tongue was in the process of being filled and the Chief Inspector would provide Members with a further update in the near future;
- concern at the frustration and nuisance caused by slow moving traffic on single track roads on the North Coast 500 in the Durness area and the importance of educating drivers and signage in this regard; and
- concern at the access young people had to drugs in some rural communities and the importance of encouraging Members and the public to feedback any information to the Police. The Chief Inspector advised he would share with Members information on the partners intelligence portal, details of which he provided.

The Committee **NOTED** progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2023-2026 Year 1, attached as Annex A to this report, for the period covering 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

## **5. Winter Service Plan for 2024/25 Plana Seirbheis Geamhraidh airson 2024/25**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/13/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

In discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- an update was sought and provided on the changes to the policy for grit/salt bins and it was confirmed details of the winter resilience scheme would be shared with Members;
- in response to a query, it was explained that currently salt barns were located in Lairg and Lochinver to provide for dry storage. Planning permission had been granted for structures in Brora and Kinlochbervie, although currently there was no provision in the budget for these facilities;
- it would be reassuring for Members and communities to know the procedure for and local contractors to be engaged in exceptional circumstances to assist in clearing deep snow at short notice. It was confirmed this matter would be discussed with Members outwith the meeting as there were issues of commercial confidentiality;
- in regard to the above, it was reassuring that additional help from external contractors was available in the special circumstances described; and
- an update was sought and provided on the gritting fleet ready to be deployed in winter and plans to hire vehicles pending the arrival of new vehicles.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for 2024/25.

**6. Dornoch Common Good Fund – Invitation to Pay Parking Scheme  
Maoin Math Coitcheann Dhòrnaich - Sgeama Cuireadh gus Pàigheadh airson  
Parcadh**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/14/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

In discussion, the take up of the scheme and profit returned to the Dornoch Common Good Fund was welcomed.

The Committee **AGREED** that £956.00 costs incurred by the Council's Parking Enforcement Team to operate the invitation to pay parking scheme at the Sutherland Common Good sites be charged against the Dornoch Common Good Fund.

**7. Dornoch Common Good Quarterly Monitoring Report  
Aithisg Sgrùdaidh Ràitheil Math Coitcheann Dhòrnaich**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/15/24 by the Head of Community Support, Contact and Engagement and Head of Corporate Finance & Commercialism.

The Committee:

- i **NOTED** the Quarter 4 monitoring statement for the Dornoch Common Good Fund;
- ii **AGREED** to homologate community grants for 2023/24 and 2024/25 (to date); and
- iii **AGREED** to delegate to the Community Development Manager authority to approve Dornoch Common Good grants up to £10,000 within the annually set budget and following consultation with relevant Ward Members

**8. Ward Discretionary Awards  
Duaisean fo Ùghdarras Uàird**

**North, West and Central Sutherland Ward Discretionary Budget applications approved 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following North, West and Central Sutherland Ward Discretionary Budget applications have been approved since 1 April 2023:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Lairg Community Council - Lairg Bird Hide upgrade                  | £2,000.00 |
| Sutherland Women's Football Club - Transport Funds                 | £1,600.00 |
| Farr Youth Development – High Life Highland - Day Trip to Durness  | £240.00   |
| The Sutherland Community Partnership - Community Learning Exchange | £500.00   |
| Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust - Kyle Feeds                  | £1,000.00 |
| Lairg & District Community Initiative - Replace Flag Pole          | £500.00   |
| North West Training Centre - Learning Programme 23-24              | £1,750.00 |
| Farr Edge 2000 – Continue Service                                  | £1,240.00 |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Tykes Young Carers Project Ward 1 – Programme of Respite Residential                        | £2,500.00         |
| Culrain Hall – Heating Upgrade  | £1,200.00         |
| Scourie Community Development Company – Safe Parking for Affordable Housing, Scourie School | £1,000.00         |
| North West Schools PC – Extra- curricular activities  | £1,000.00         |
| East Sutherland School Sports Association   | £1,000.00         |
| Scourie Community Development Company – Spring Wellbeing (Scourie)                          | £440.00           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>£15,790.00</b> |

### **East Sutherland and Edderton Ward Discretionary Budget applications approved 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following East Sutherland and Edderton Ward Discretionary Budget applications have been approved since 1 April 2023:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Clyne Heritage Society (CHS) - Aultcraggie Roundhouse Community Archaeological Excavation | £500.00           |
| Dornoch Bowling Club – Victorian Benches  | £700.00           |
| East Sutherland Camera Club – Highland Challenge 2023                                     | £600.00           |
| Sutherland Women’s Football Club – Transport Funds  | £1,600.00         |
| Go Golspie – Caretaker Post   | £500.00           |
| The Sutherland Community Partnership – Community Learning Exchange                        | £500.00           |
| Dornoch Academy – Edinburgh Book Festival Literacy Trip                                   | £1,175.00         |
| The Embo Trust – Old School Reset   | £600.00           |
| Highlife Highland – Dornoch Youth Summer Services Programme                               | £1,000.00         |
| Tykes – Programme of Respite Residential  | £3,000.00         |
| Embo Trust (Urras Euraboil) – Embo Community Centre Resilience                            | £999.99           |
| East Sutherland Schools Sports Association  | £2,560.00         |
| Helmsdale PS PC – Crossing Patroller Hut  | £850.00           |
| Golspie Youth Action Project  | £1,415.00         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>£15,999.99</b> |

## **9. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas**

There was circulated and **NOTED** Minutes of the Sutherland County Committee held on 14 May 2024, which were approved by the Council on 27 June 2024.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.